

**Agenda for PPQ Management Team
and
National Plant Board Council
Meeting
Seattle, Washington
November 17-19, 1998**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1998

OPENING REMARKS - Al Elder, Steve Johnson

Welcome to group and offer to extend agenda as needed. Agenda reviewed by both Al and Steve. Changes within USDA. Jim Reynolds, acting director of operational support staff for 6-9 months. Chuck Schwalbe director of CPHST in Raleigh. Bob Williamson head of western regional hub. Mary Neal on 140 day detail as associate deputy administrator in DC; Rebecca Bech will relieve her in that position when 140 days is over. Vic Harabin one of two associate regional directors of Eastern hub. Dick Asbary is associate regional director in west (will be retiring in January).

HUBS - Jerry Fowler, Bob Williamson

Eastern - Jerry fowler

Vic Harabin is one associate regional director; second one is being considered now. Vic will be responsible for old southern region states (8). Discussed proposed realignment of eastern region. (See Nov. 6 memo from Patty Coto). All regional positions, including program managers, will be stationed at the regional headquarters in Raleigh. Some gaping holes in vacant positions due to lack of interest by some employees to move to Raleigh. Temporary office space not yet determined. Moorestown and Gulfport offices will be closed Oct. 15, 1999. New regional office building not yet ready; expected by July 1, 1999. Ron Blosovitch and Terry Goodman have not expressed interest in moving to HUB. Out of 70 people only 20 have expressed interest in moving to HUB. About 60 positions in both eastern and western regions will not be filled (all APHIS, not just PPQ; about half of those are PPQ). APHIS executive board will coordinate all APHIS activities at the HUB; chair of executive board will be a rotating responsibility among the five units of APHIS (PPQ, VS, IS, Animal Care, ??); Jerry Fowler is current chair.

Western - Bob Williamson

Support costs will be shared by all agencies (60.4% PPQ, 27.9% VS, 7.6% , 1.6% IS, 2.5% Animal Care). Anticipate a \$600,000 savings in support costs. Moving costs for eastern region is budgeted at \$3.5 million, payed over two fiscal years. Fort Collins facility expected to be finished summer of 2000.

CPHST - Chuck Schwalbe

16 different sites make up the Center. Chuck's primary focus will be to ensure that there is no ambiguity as to what the various labs/centers are to do. Emphasis this coming year will be on biological control. USDA biological control coordinating council has been formed; first meeting

next week; Chuck is APHIS representative on council. Proposed rule on regulation of biological control is expected to be published in January. Council activities are reported on NBCI web page.

APHIS is committed to developing pest lists. Prevention of intervention and establishment of exotic pests is dependent on establishing these lists.

Nomenclature problems - the Center will be the Raleigh office, the outlying labs will be called laboratories.

Niles laboratory - only two scientists left. Budget has been reduced and will continue to be reduced to about \$650,000. CLB project about \$250-\$300,000, KB project - 50,000. PPQ will match state funding 3 to 1 for this year. This is a risky initiative since not all of the FQPA initiatives for Niles are regulatory related. Plan is to NOT CLOSE Niles lab, but there will be budget reductions.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES - Rebecca Bech (speaker phone)

Review of membership of IAS council. Executive order has passed through USDA and OMB. EO is now in White House and is expected to be released after the November elections. Hope is that Departments will put together a budget package for FY2000. Funds for initiative in FY 2000 is expected to be new money. EO calls for development of a management plan within 18 months. Invasive plants (weeds) are not to only focus of the initiative.

KB NATIONAL SURVEY - Dave McNeal (speaker phone)

1998 survey update:

2516 samples collected; met or exceeded goal in all but 2 states. All reported samples are negative for Karnal bunt.

1999 survey (See handout):

Monitoring system proposal is for sampling different wheat production counties in alternate years. This appears to be acceptable by trading partners. Same screening as in 1998 - looking for bunted kernels only. Sample is primarily based on grain; some seed sampling will be done.

Need to be as diplomatic as possible when taking samples from county elevators, since there has allegedly been some problem confrontations when samples were taken. There needs to be an educational component of this process. Intensity of sampling will not any different between regulated areas and non-regulated areas.

526 FORM - Steve Johnson, Debbie Knott

(see handout on Plant Pest Permit Improvements)

Four representatives from Regional plant boards to assist PPQ in reviewing and developing form.

Two separate documents - application and permit. Application will go to PPQ and then to state. Permit information will be on internet. Applying for permit on-line is goal, need several clearances yet.

Expedite lists will be established. All states (50) must agree before an organism is placed on such a list.

PPQ will send an application/review packet to the destination state. A permit will NOT be issued until a state has responded to the application.

PPQ employees (22) are being trained to do inspection of plant pest containment facilities. Pilot inspections have been performed by trained employees. Process is designed to allow state involvement in the inspection. (See handout on Plant Pest Containment) **States are encouraged to discuss plant pest containment sites and their inspections with your PPQ SPHD.**

NORTHERN BORDER - Nancy Klag, Bob Nave, Darlene Orr

(see handouts on various Canada/Northern Tier States/USTR issues)

PPQ was brought into this issue as a result of Governors contacting US Trade Representative. This is a political issue, not a technical issue. Political request was to get Canada to relax their requirements on the importation of Canadian wheat and to find ways to increase regulatory pressure against Canada on other issues.

CANADIAN NURSERIES - Nancy Klag

(see handout on Canadian Nursery Certification Program)

Discussion on differences in requirements between Canada and US.

25 MILE RULE - Dave Reeves

The "25 mile rule" is a policy, not a regulation. No one is sure that there is a pest risk.

SOLID WOOD PACKING (ALHB) - Joe Cavey, Ron Campbell, Judy Pasck, Dave Reeves

(see handout)

All infested trees have been removed in both quarantined areas of NY.

In Chicago, 396 infested trees have been identified in three quarantined areas. Trees are scheduled to be removed beginning December 15 (street trees); private trees will be removed after January 1.

Is eradication effort sufficient? More survey data is being collected to determine if the eradication program is effective. PPQ feels that the current eradication efforts are adequate. Immediate removal of infested trees is important and is being done. There is always a need for more survey resources, but since the infestations have been there for several years there is probably minimal

risk of spread with current resources.

Use of a pheromone tool for detection survey is probably two or more years away. There is a lot of Chinese literature on control tools for *Anoplophora*, but not much of it shows promise.

Canadians have a solid wood packing material rule similar to US interim rule that becomes effective on shipments arriving in Canada on January 4. This is about the same time that shipments entering the US would be required to be treated under US rule.

High risk items will be inspected at ports of entry. Paper work will be checked at ports of arrival. United States Trade Representative (USTR) has warned that Chinese paper work will be meaningless. There may be some inspections done inland at final destination (ports of entry - deviating points), but if inspection determines non-compliance and since treatment is not an option, it may be difficult to return shipment to point of origin.

Survey plan needs to be developed. There is a 60 page list of consignees that have previously received Chinese shipments that were infested; these consignees need to be targeted. States will have to assist in this effort. Joe Cavey will send list, broken out by state, to SPROs to help in inspecting at deviating points. Joe Cavey will be the PPQ point person on ALB.

Al Elder has asked staff to develop an inspection procedure that will enable inspections of Chinese shipments when interim rule takes effect. There is a lot of concern among the ports that they will not be able to even conduct the documentation check on all Chinese cargo. Customs has agreed to assist, but PPQ staff is concerned over how effective that assistance will be.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL - EXOTIC PEST EXCLUSION/NATIONAL SURVEY - Steve Johnson, Dan Fiselmann

PPQ has asked NPB to conduct a review of the current US safeguarding system. NPB has put together a review panel composed of NPB members, industry representatives, academia representatives and others. Four committees have been formed to address the following issues: International Pest Information, Permit System, Pest Exclusion, Domestic Pest Detection and Response. Report is due to Al Elder by end of April, 1999.

STATE/FEDERAL FOLLOW-UP EXCLUSION ACTIVITIES - Al Elder

Operational Support will look into drafting a boilerplate MOU to allow states to act as PPQ agents for inspection of wood packing materials and other issues.

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION BILATERALS - Al Elder

Development of international standards. Setting up informal process for dispute resolution; current formal process is extremely expensive.

New category of plant pest - "regulated non-quarantine pest"; formerly considered quality pest. Pests for which there may be a tolerance.

Discussion on how APHIS can better educate the growers/brokers/shippers on the phytosanitary certification process. Very often this is the last thing our customers think of when they sell a commodity to a foreign country. Perhaps a short video tape could be prepared explaining the need and particulars for the phytosanitary certification process.

STRATEGIC PLANNING - Mary Neal

Government Performance Reporting Act (GPRA) requires each agency to prepare annual performance plans.

(see handouts)

Annual Performance plan has five goals:

1. Pest and Disease Exclusion
2. Plant and Animal Health Monitoring
3. Pest and Disease Management
4. Animal Care
5. Scientific and Technical Services

States are asked to review and evaluate domestic program activities' performance plans to determine if stated outcomes are attainable, measurable, and valuable. SPHDs and SPROs should review numbers and measures (for FY 2000 and 2001) for their states. See timeline handout.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1998

OPENING REMARKS - Al Elder, Steve Johnson

DOMESTIC/AQI FUNDING - Paul Eggert

(see handouts)

What is the concept of domestic funding?

PPQ program infrastructure has been directly related to AQI exclusion versus domestic program resources. At one time the minimum PPQ domestic infrastructure goal was a state plant health director and one full-time PPQ officer in every state.

Monitoring of bio terrorism may be a new program that will have to be conducted.

Inspection of commodities at points of devaning (not ports of arrival) may need to be done.

Differences between AQI exclusion and domestic programs (\$) for FY 1998/1999. Total AQI budget for FY 98 is \$166 m; \$176 m for FY 99 (6.103% increase). Total domestic line items

budget for FY 98 is \$57.0 m; \$57.7 m for FY 99 (1.304% increase). ALB funding will not have to come from “emerging plant pests”; new money coming in for that. Decreases in Biotechnology and Plant Methods are significant.

FY 99 PPQ domestic infrastructure programs are \$203,000 less than FY 98; FY 99 PPQ domestic non-infrastructure programs are \$911,000 more than FY 98 (due mostly to fruit fly detection and exclusion).

PPQ administrative costs continue to be decreased; smallest within APHIS.

Biggest differences (cuts) from President’s budget and final congressional appropriation were in biotechnology, gypsy moth, emerging plant pests and plant methods.

About 10% of PPQ budget is taken away by Department and APHIS for overhead.

Paul will try to put together a handbook explaining budget process for benefit of new council members before the January NPBC/PPQMT meeting.

GYPSY MOTH QUARANTINE - Vic Mastro, Joann ? SPHD-WI, Tim McNeary
(see handouts)

Proposed changes to the Gypsy Moth Regulation and Policy for the Processing of Regulated Logs. Steve Johnson will coordinate comments from the states on the proposed changes and will funnel those comments to Chris Markham.

Gypsy Moth program on Vancouver Island, BC. On October 28, 1998, CFIA implemented a quarantine on the islands; this enabled USDA to regulate movement of gypsy moth articles coming from Vancouver. Over 500 males have been trapped in the quarantine area. Plans are for treatment of several hundred acres next year. Quarantine area is about 25 miles long by 6 miles wide.

ACCREDITATION SYSTEMS - Nancy Klag
(see handout)

CITRUS CANCER - Steve Poe, Mike Shannon
(see handout)

Problem is concentrated in Miami area. Over 80,000 trees have been removed. APHIS cannot continue to fund this program according to the current strategic plan. Eradication plan is scheduled for 13 years at a total cost of about \$330 m; Annual budget for first few years is \$40 m. At the end of the 13 year program the annual budget will be \$17 m. Countries infected with citrus canker cannot grow cosmetically acceptable grapefruit. The two commercial area infestations

need to be eradicated ASAP and leave alone the residential area infestations in Dade and Broward counties. Eradication with current technology and resources is not possible. Eradication has not been successful and delay of spread is not being achieved. APHIS needs to devise a research plan to develop new tools.

FF (MEXFLY/MEDFLY) - Mike Stefan, Bill Snell, Helene Wright
(see handouts)

Sterile fly supply may not be adequate if any more outbreaks are detected.

CAPS/NAPIS - Jim Reynolds, Dave McNeal
(see handout)

SITE VISIT - PORT OF SEATTLE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1998

TOUR OF NORTHERN BORDER STATIONS